

## Claims

- [c1] What is claimed is:
- 1.A method for transferring a program via a network, the network comprising a server and a plurality of terminals connected to the server, the terminals being capable of requesting the server to transfer the program, the server responding to the request of the terminals by broadcasting the program to the terminals, the method comprising:
- using a terminal to request the server to re-transfer the program when the terminal receives only a portion of the program requested by another terminal instead of receiving the complete program during a timeout period.
- [c2] 2.The method of claim 1 wherein the program is an operating system for the terminals.
- [c3] 3.The method of claim 1 wherein when the server receives the request of the terminal, the server enables a thread to broadcast the program.
- [c4] 4.The method of claim 1 wherein the server divides the program into a plurality of data packets, the server transferring the program using the data packets.
- [c5] 5.The method of claim 4 wherein each of the data packets has the same size.
- [c6] 6.The method of claim 4 wherein the server broadcasts the data packets sequentially in a fixed time interval.
- [c7] 7.The method of claim 1 wherein the terminals are information appliances (IAs).
- [c8] 8.A network system comprising:
- a server; and
- a plurality of terminals connected to the server, the terminals being capable of requesting the server to transfer a program, the server responding to the request of the terminals by broadcasting the program to the terminals;
- wherein when a terminal receives only a portion of the program requested by another terminal instead of receiving the complete program during a timeout period, the terminal will request the server to re-transfer the program.

